

# Preparing for the College Application Process



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# The Bottom Line?

- Colleges seek to admit student that will :
  - Eventually graduate from their institution
  - Expand and develop intellectually and personally while contributing to the campus community



# Application Review

## Three Main Factors

- High School Curriculum Choices
  - Did you take advantage of the curriculum OHS has to offer?
  - Sophomore and junior year very important
  - Senior year counts!
- ACT / SAT Score
- Grade Point Average
  - Weighted, Un-weighted, Recalculated
  - Is there a trend in grades.....upward or downward?

# Other Factors Considered

- Personal Statement / Essay Response (if required)
- Honors and Awards
- Involvement in Extracurricular Activities
  - School and Community
  - Quality more important than quantity
  - Leadership experiences
  - Work Experience
- Unique Background / Experiences
  - Successful in spite of major obstacles
- Recommendations (if required)

# MI Colleges

## What They Look For

- Wayne State
  - 21 ACT OR 2.75 GPA
  - 76% admit rate
- Oakland University
  - 2.5 recalculated GPA
  - 68% admit rate
- Western Michigan
  - 16 ACT and 2.50 GPA
  - 86% admit rate
- Central Michigan
  - 21 ACT and 3.0 GPA
  - 68% admit rate
- Eastern Michigan
  - 20 ACT and 2.75 GPA
  - 60% admit rate
- Grand Valley State
  - 3.3 GPA and 22 ACT
  - 70% admit rate
- Michigan State
  - 3.4 GPA recalculated and 25 ACT
  - 73% admit rate
- University of Michigan
  - 3.9 GPA and 30 ACT
  - 41% admit rate
- Saginaw Valley State
  - 18 ACT and 2.5 GPA

# Private Colleges / Universities

- Don't rule out based on cost
- Typically have more aid to give than public schools
  - More grants and scholarships
  - Some will meet 100% of need based aid
- First generation college student and Pell grant eligible
- Do you show potential?

# Community College...A good option?

- Yes, if.....
  - Not quite ready to leave home
  - Below a 2.5 grade point average
  - Desire to save money
  - Career choice requires a certificate or associates degree
- Oakland Community College.....
  - Open-admission institution
  - More than 130 career programs
  - Average class size = 24
  - 40% of incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year students are preparing to transfer to 4 year schools
  - Largest feeder school to MI colleges / universities



# When and How to Apply

- Apply in the fall of your senior year
- Read the application instructions....tells you everything you need to know
- 99% of colleges have online applications
- College Websites
  - Look for “Admissions” or “Future Students” section
- No two applications are the same!
  - Greatly vary between colleges
  - The Common Application – 500+ schools use [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- 2014-15 Applications available around 8/1/14



# Components of the Application

- Personal information, intended major, activities/honors in high school, senior year schedule, etc.
- High School Transcript
- ACT / SAT Scores
- Essay / Personal Statement \*
- Counselor Recommendation \*
  - Sometimes called the Secondary School Report or Counselor Certification
- Teacher Recommendation \*
- Application Fee \*

\* Not required by all colleges / universities

# Application Deadlines

- Different application plans have different requirements and obligations
  - Early Decision
  - Early Action
  - Single Choice Early Action or Restrictive Early Action
  - Rolling Admissions
  - Regular Decision

# Examples of Applications

Grand Valley State University

The Common Application

# The College Essay

- Address the topic specified
- Honor all word limits
- Allow time for someone to review
  - Utilize only one reviewer
- Proofread
- Make it memorable and personable (in your own words)
- Great Essay Tips

# Sample Essay Prompts

1. Describe a significant experience from the past two years which required you to interact with someone outside of your own social or cultural group (ethnic, religious, geographic, socioeconomic, etc.). How did this impact you? What did you learn and what surprised you?
2. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?
3. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?

# Requesting Transcripts

- Parchment – allows students and educators to securely request, send and receive education credentials online
- Use Parchment to request your transcript be sent to the colleges where you are applying
  - [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)
- Oxford receives your transcript request and we securely send your transcript to the college electronically
  - Check status online

# Requesting Letters of Recommendation

- Teacher Recommendations
  - A teacher who knows you well
  - Core academic area
  - Request at least two weeks in advance / ask now
  - Provide resume to teacher
  - Follow up to ensure submitted /mailed
  - Common App recommendations are all online
  - Write a thank you note!

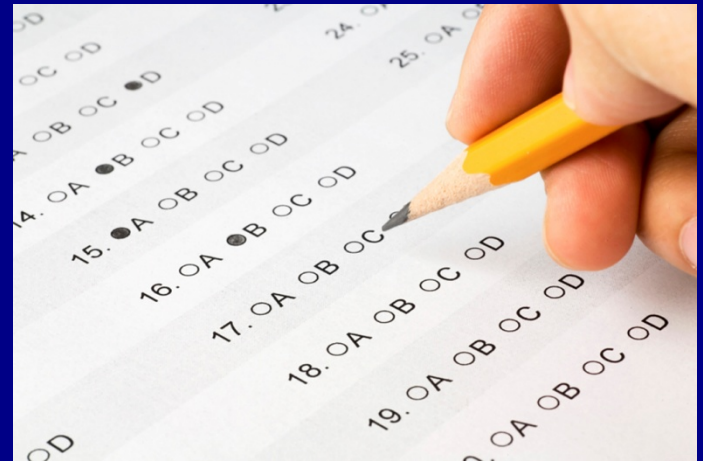


# ACT / SAT Test Scores

- Each college will require ACT/SAT test scores before your application can be reviewed
- You are responsible for sending your test scores to the colleges, not OHS
  - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) ACT scores
  - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) SAT scores
- You will NEVER be penalized for taking the ACT multiple times
- Retake the ACT in May / Sept / Oct / Dec

# Test Prep Resources

- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com)
- [www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com)
- [www.mallyact.com](http://www.mallyact.com)



# Scholarships and Financial Aid



# Develop a Scholarship Strategy

- Check membership organizations and employers
- Use a FREE scholarship search service:
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.zinch.com](http://www.zinch.com)
  - [www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com)
  - [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
  - [www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)
- Check out scholarship opportunities on OHS website monthly [scholarships](#)

# Financial Aid

- Complete the FAFSA beginning in January, 2015
  - Safe deadline is March 1
- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Oxford Financial Aid Night in October 21, 2014

# Counselor Contacts

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